Why Should Skills Wither? Tisdalle Asks

Use of Crafts Rooms in Schools Urged

Pensioners Need Place 'Just to Make Things'

A suggestion that schools rooms used for crafts should be turned over to the old-age pensioners and semi-retired pensioners for certain periods each week was made in the legislature yesterday by John Tisdalle (SC, Saanich).

He said the pensioners could use the rooms "just to go in and make things."

Mr. Tisdalle entered a strong plea for a new government rehabilitation scheme for pensioners so "they can live instead of becoming living vegetables."

He said a great deal more stimulation on the problem is needed at the local level to encourage the pensioners to lead active lives instead of taking a dejected, dispondent attitude toward life in general.

He described them as "forgotten people . . . considered a liability on society . . . a tragedy on human lives."

Mr. Tisdalle said health and welfare departments should pay more attention to the needs of the pensioners.

What is lacking, he said, is a new type of rehabilitation home . . . somewhere between private hospitals and boarding houses.

He suggested the houses would be cheaper to operate than keeping pensioners in private hospitals and in many cases could be operated by a man and wife, if the wife were a qualified nurse.

What is needed is a semi-home atmosphere which would give the pensioners an opportunity to take care of themselves, yet with care available if they need it.

LOCAL NEWS

The Daily Colonist.

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Determined Delegates Will Fly East To Save Area's Ferry, Air Links

First Appointment With CPR Chief

Three official Greater Victoria spokesmen will fly east in a determined effort to "save" the area's ferry and air links with the mainland.

In the group are Mayor Percy Scurrah, Acting Mayor Arthur Dowell and newspaper publisher Stuart Keate.

Mr. Keate yesterday was named official representative of the Greater Victoria Intermunicipal committee with power to speak for the four municipalities of Victoria, Oak Bay, Saanich and Esquimalt.

VICTORIA CHAMBER

He is also acting on request of the ways and means committee of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce.

The Victoria delegates will seek continuance of the CPR's ferry service on the Vancouver-Victoria-Seattle run and will also seek to balk the application of Pacific Western Airlines to take over air service on the triangle run from TCA.

The trio will meet first in Montreal Tuesday morning with N. R. Crump, CPR president, to present a strong plea for retention of the company's ferry service between Victoria and the mainland "at least until the provincial government ferries are in operation."

DATE CONFIRMED

Mr. Keate said yesterday the Montreal appointment had been confirmed by the CPR president in a wire to Victoria.

He said following the session with the CPR chief a meeting would be sought with TCA vice-president Gordon Wood to press for continuation of the major airline's Patricia Bay-mainland service.

DEPUTY MINISTER

After the Montreal meetings an interview will be arranged in Ottawa with deputy minister of transport John Baldwin, chairman of the air transport board, to voice objections against PWA taking over the triangle air service here.

Mayor Scurrah will fly directly from Palm Springs, Calif., where he has been on holiday, to join the other two delegates in Montreal in time for the Tuesday meeting.

ONLY CHINK

Only chink in the solid front of the four Greater Victoria municipalities was expressed yesterday at the intermunicipal committee meeting by Reeve A. C. Wurtele of Esquimalt. He said he wouldn't instruct Mr. Keate to oppose the PWA application, but approve of his appointment as a "fact finder."

Only a sudden favorable development over the weekend could affect his decision to fly from Palm Springs for the important protest meetings in the east, Mayor Scurah said last night.

KEEP FIGHTING

"I feel we've got to keep on fighting," Mr. Keate said yesterday. "And you can talk better face to face than by wires, briefs and phone calls."

He said the Greater Victoria group would tell CPR president Crump, "While we appreciate your economic difficulties, the suddenness of the announcement (that CPR winter ferry service would end Feb. 25) has left us high and dry."

TIDE US OVER

He said Mr. Crump would be asked if "we can get service to tide us over until the (provincial) government ships go into service—even on a limited basis — maintenance of the night boat service."

"We are going to suggest the city of Victoria has had amicable relations with the CPR for 75 years," Mr. Keate said. "There are historic considerations involved.

"My understanding is that the CPR went in the red in the centennial year only because of the long strike and that over the years they've done well in their business relations with Vancouver Island — and our protest against being abandoned without notice should receive consideration.

"One main value of our visit is to let them know we are concerned enough to fly 3,000 miles to present our case."

City, Saanich and Oak Bay representatives backed the move to press for continuation of the TCA service from Patricia Bay.

KENNETH PATCHEN
. . . 'a writer of unmistakable genius'

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Around the Island

Cowichan River Dikes Planned

DUNCAN — Erosion of Indian reserve land by the Cowichan River, lowering of the high water table of Duncan and North Cowichan, and a serious sewage disposal problem for the city may be solved this year through joint projects planned by the city and the Indian department.

At a joint meeting between the councils of Duncan and the Cowichan band, Mr. J. V. Boys, Indian superintendent, announced that the Indian department intends to dike the Cowichan River to protect large tracts of Indian reserve land from continual flooding during high water.

At the same time, councillors of the Indian band asked if something could be done to eliminate pollution of the river by effluent from the city sewer plant.

"If the Indian department dikes the river, the city could put in a lagoon system for sewage disposal, and this would be the most effective and the cheapest. To make the present sewer plan efficient," city engineer Russell Potter said, "we would need a plant three times the size."

Mr. Boys said that if requirements as to land were put in a concrete form, the Indian department would endeavor to locate a suitable tract. There is a possibility, he thought, that land would be available adjoining the present sewer plant.

"Cost of the lagoon system would be about $50,000," Mr. Potter said. "Between 40 and 50 acres would be required."

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PORT ALBERNI — The victim of a bulldozer accident at St. Vincent Bay will be buried here in Alberni Valley Memorial Gardens, Saturday.

James Agesen, 64, was killed Monday in the accident at the northern Vancouver Island logging camp. He was an employee of Macmillan and Bloedel Ltd.

Mr. Agesen had lived at Coombs for the past 15 years and had been employed at North West Bay. He was a member of the board of directors of Coombs Community Hall.

Besides his wife, Melaine, surviving are a son, Leo, Winnipeg; three daughters, Julie and Mary, Vancouver, and Louise, at home; two brothers, William and Peter, Coombs; his father, John William, in Denmark, and a sister in the U.S.A.

Rev. Gordon Schultz will conduct services at 2 p.m. in Parksville United Church and at the graveside here.

NANAIMO — More than 400 persons witnessed the judging of the first inter high school teen-town baking contest here. Total of 234 entries were received from high schools in Nanaimo, Qualicum, Parksville, Ladysmith and Chemainus. Pat Bullock, of Qualicum junior-senior high school, received top prize for the best cake in the contest. Other winners were Yvonne Aitken, Woodlands; Lynn Russell, Ladysmith; Yvette Pirart, St. Ann's; Carolyn Jany, John Barsby; Barbara Seaton, Ladysmith; Sharon Assen, Nanaimo; Jane Thompson, Nanaimo.

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PARKSVILLE—Veterans of this district with pension problems will have the opportunity of an interview with S. J. Mayzes, pension's advocate, when he visits here Tuesday. Mr. Mayzes will be at the home of R. C. Weld between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. on that day.

CHEMAINUS — Les Cobb, lumber grader, at the Chemainus Division of MacMillan and Bloedel Ltd., was presented with the MacMillan and Bloedel Ltd. Chemainus division trophy.

The presentation was made by the Chemainus manager, Bryce Page. The cup is awarded annually by the B.C. Lumber Manufacturers' Association for the highest marks obtained in the Chemainus division in lumber grading.

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PORT ALBERNI — A Port Alberni driver found sleeping at the wheel of his car was charged Friday morning with impaired driving.

Arthur Redman pleaded guilty before Magistrate W. E. MacLeod, was fined $100 with costs and his licence was suspended for three months.

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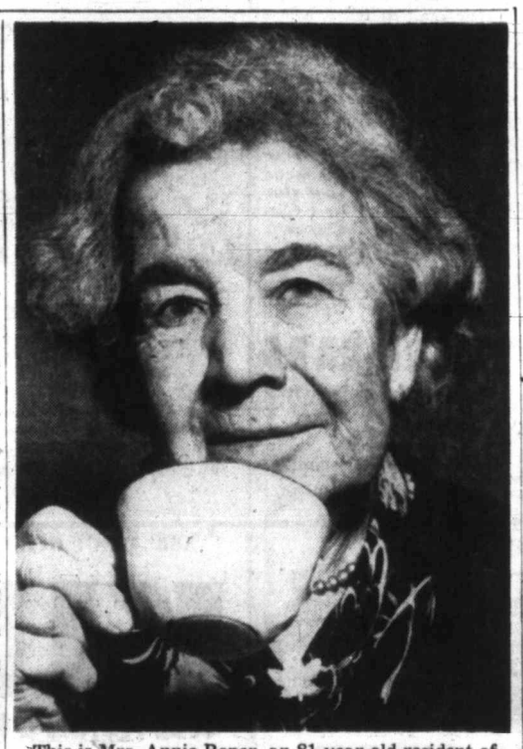
NANAIMO — Expansion in the operation of the Nanaimo branch SPCA has pushed expenditures up from $100 to $7,000 in the course of five years.



This is Mrs. Annie Roper, an 81-year-old resident of Victoria, whose only income is the $55-a-month federal old-age pension cheque. If Mrs. Roper needs more than her $55 she takes it out of her shrinking bank account.—(Colonist photo.)

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Meet Mrs. Annie Roper Happy and Contented

By TED SHACKLEFORD

Meet Mrs. Annie Roper, 81, a resident of British Columbia for about 18 months and living on the federal pension cheque of $55 a month, plus a little from her bank account.

Colonist reporter Ted Shackleford has been assigned to live on $55 for a month to discover how senior citizens on old-age assistance payments live and what their problems are.

He will be available in The Daily Colonist office—EV 3-4111—between 4 and 5 p.m. each day.

When the few dollars in her bank account have been used up Mrs. Roper will be restricted to the $55 until she has been in B.C. for three years, and qualifies for the $20 bonus paid by the provincial government.

Mrs. Roper came to Victoria from Moose Jaw, Sask. Her former husband was a railway man and she is eligible for a free travel pass. Each year she returns to Moose Jaw for a short trip.

$28 A MONTH

The small room Mrs. Roper rents costs her $28 a month and $1 for gas. She has an antique, three-burner gas stove in her room. The only sink is down the hall from her room.

The room, itself, is about 20 feet long and perhaps eight feet wide. It contains a three-quarter bed, a chest of drawers, a dressing table, the stove, a buffet, a small round coffee table, and a small kitchen table.

WORN LINOLEUM

There are two patterns of linoleum on the floor, one of them worn. The window of the narrow room looks out onto a parking lot.

But Mrs. Roper is very happy and very contented.

Earlier in her life Mrs. Roper lived on a farm and kept detailed accounts of costs, but now she doesn't bother. She just buys the food she needs and if she goes over her $55 cheque she takes a few dollars out of the bank.

She feels that 14 cents a pint is too much for liquid milk, so she uses canned milk for her tea and powdered milk for cooking.

But with her limited income and tiny room, Mrs. Roper doesn't lack for entertainment. She belongs to the No. 1 Old Age Pensioners group, attends Salvation Army meetings, goes to St. John's Church and is a member of the church women's auxiliary, occasionally gets free passes to movies and symphony concerts.

And she has many friends. Right now her main trouble is a cold which she is trying to shake off. She has medicine provided by the Victoria Order of Nurses and is staying indoors as much as possible.

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Vic-Van-Isle Kinsmen's club is considering helping to provide a downtown recreation and meeting centre for Victoria's old-age pensioners.

A story in this column Thursday pointed out the need for somewhere that pensioners could go during the day—somewhere they could meet, talk, watch TV or practice handicrafts.

A meeting of the executive of the Vic-Van-Isle club Thursday night will consider this project, along with others.

ONLY PURCHASES

Yesterday my only purchases were four packets of cigaret papers (20 cents), two dry rolls and two cupcakes (11 cents) and a coffee (10 cents). This leaves me with $13.75 for the rest of the month.

Breakfast was a bowl of corn flakes with milk and two slices of toast with margarine and three cups of coffee. Lunch was hurried and consisted of the rolls, cakes and coffee and dinner was half a tin of chicken haddie, heated with milk and margarine, half a small can of diced carrots and two cups of coffee.

Campus Queen

Chosen campus queen in voting at Victoria College, Louise Marcil of Dawson Creek, first-year education student, was crowned last night at College dance at the Crystal Garden. Named princesses were Elaine Ferguson, 19, 1960 St. Ann, second-year education; and Patti Harvey, 18, 950 Arundel, first-year arts.

Island Tax 13 Per Cent

Premier Bennett said yesterday that 13.09 per cent of sales tax revenue is collected on Vancouver Island. He didn't know how much of the gasoline tax was collected on the Island.

Mr. Bennett was answering questions placed on the legislative order papers by George Gregory (Lib, Victoria.)

Oakalla Warden Speaks on Crime

Warden Hugh Christie of Oakalla Prison will speak on "Crime and Punishment" at 8.15 p.m. Monday in Victoria College auditorium. The lecture, open to the public, is one in a series arranged by the University Extension Association.

Beatniks 'Defeated Bunch'

'Nowhere's a Big Pocket' But Jazz-Poet Got Out

BLISS DYSART

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Seen In Passing

Bliss Dysart doing some bookkeeping. (He is treasurer of Holyrood House. He and his wife **Margaret** have one daughter, **Edna May**, attending Victoria College. His hobbies are curling and gardening) . . . **Don Duncan** selling some materials for a tile-laying job . . . **Bob Godtel** greeting a friend he hasn't seen in a long time . . . **Gordy McMillan** talking about the coming Vic-Van Isle Kinsmen's boat show . . . **Stan Winfield** talking about insurance . . . **Gladys Stark** playing a deduction game with friends . . . **Jack Phillion** discussing birthdays and bingo dates . . . **Glen Hamilton** very pleased with progress at a meeting Thursday night . . . **Lorne Lewis** servicing a coffee dispensing machine.

As noted U.S. poet-author Kenneth Patchen says, "Nowhere's a big pocket," but with his 27 published books, he has climbed out of the pocket and got somewhere.

Proof of the poetical pudding is currently being displayed at "The Scene," 1306 Wharf Street, the close-in, "far-out" progressive music spot where Mr. Patchen is reading his poetry to jazz.

The 47-year-old poet with the immaculate diction and beautifully modulated voice debuted in Victoria yesterday at a noon-hour Victoria College session that enthralled hundreds of students.

At "The Scene" last night, the college triumph was repeated with a packed house drinking in the "poetry-jazz," as Mr. Patchen calls it.

The winner of a Guggenheim Fellowship at 24 with his first volume of poetry, "Before the Brave," will be on the Scene, scene again tonight, starting about 10.30.

Kenneth Patchen is recognized as the first person ever to wed poetry to jazz.

"It came about naturally enough," he said yesterday in his Strathcona Hotel room.

"I had been interested in jazz for a long time when I found out that many top-flight jazz musicians were very interested in my books.

"One thing led to another," he said, "and in 1950 we put some poetry-jazz on tape in Connecticut.

"These tapes were played over a San Francisco radio station in 1952 and that started it."

The professional writer toured until recently with the famed, but now-disbanded Chamber Jazz Sextet. The group drew rave reviews and broke attendance records in many places.

Off to Greenwich Village

He has also appeared on TV and will be appearing at a Greenwich Village theatre this year with a quintet headed by outstanding bass-player Charlie Mingus.

A fall tour of U.S. colleges — he and the late Dylan Thomas are top rated by college students—is also on the agenda of the man described by author Henry Miller as "one of the truly greats, a writer of unmistakable genius."

However, all of poet Patchen's plans are dependent upon the state of his health, precarious since a youthful spinal injury.

One of the things that Mr. Patchen—who lives at Palo Alto, Calif.—objects to most is being associated with San Francisco's "Beatnik" colony.

"I am certainly not one of them," he said emphatically.

"I don't like being made to appear another monkey-on-a-string," he said.

The Beatnik outburst is just another passing phase, he said, "like the goldfish-eating craze.

"They're just a bunch of defeated people messing up everyone's living rooms."

And what's more, he added, the Beatnik group "has no existence as a literary movement."

The poet summed up the Beatnik set as an "indication on the part of a minority of youth their dissatisfaction with life . . . a hunger. . . ."

Mr. Patchen passed on a leading critic's remark in dismissing the Beatniks: "Patchen said it all 20 years ago."

But Patchen is still saying it—as he will be tonight, seated on a stool and wearing his famous scarlet coat.

Here's one of the poems he will be saying, entitled "Lonesome Boy Blues:"

Oh nobody's a long time
Nowhere's a big pocket
To put little
Pieces of nice things that

Have never really happened

To anyone except
Those people who were
lucky enough
Not to get born
Oh lonesome's a bad place

To get crowded into

With only
Yourself riding back and
forth

On
A blind white horse
Along an empty road
meeting
All your
Pals face to face

Nobody's a long time.